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The Star-Ledger

THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Three states move to shutter theaters, casinos

Murphy orders all public, private schools closed

National Guard to mobilize against threat

80 more in N.J. test positive for coronavirus

GOVS GET TOUGH

Brent Johnson and Matt Arco
For The Star-Ledger

In an unprecedented regional decision, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut ordered all movie theaters, casinos and gyms in their states to close indefinitely as of 8 p.m. Monday and are placing restrictions on restaurants and bars to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

The order will remain "until further notice," the states' three governors announced Monday morning.

Gov. Phil Murphy also announced plans to mobilize the National Guard for the coronavirus response.

In a separate announcement Monday, Murphy ordered the closing of all public and private schools, including pre-K and colleges, in New Jersey starting Wednesday.

The sweeping action came as state officials Monday announced 80 new positive tests for COVID-19 in New Jersey, bringing the total figure here to at least 178 cases. Of them, three state residents have died.

Two of those deaths are linked, state officials have said.

A religious education teacher from Freehold, Rita Fusco-Jackson, who was in her 50s, died Thursday. Her death is connected to the death of John Brennan, 69, a horse trainer who lived in Little Ferry.

Like Brennan, Fusco-Jackson's family was involved in harness horse racing, and the two deaths were connected through a family gathering in Monmouth County.

Monday night, Murphy announced the third death, a man in his 90s being treated at Hackensack University Medical Center.

The age range of the new cases is 5 years old to 93 years old, marking the first known pediatric case in the state, according to Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli.

"It's the youngest child affected,"

SEE CLOSURES, A4

A man walks past fencing placed in front of Resorts Casino Hotel n Atlantic City on Monday. Gov. Phil Murphy ordered the temporary closure of all New Jersey casinos to control the spread of the coronavirus outbreak. *Tim Hawk, NJ Advance Media for The Star-Ledger*

Inside

All bets are off: Citing crowd limits of 50 recommended by the CDC, Meadowlands Racetrack brings operations to a halt. **A3**

Schools to be emptied: As of Wednesday, 1.4 million students and 115,000 teachers in New Jersey will stay home. **A5**

That sinking feeling: The Dow plunges 2,997 points, or 12.9%, amid warnings the virus may be triggering a recession. **A6**

First responders on guard for virus: Social distancing? Police and EMTs are regularly called on to mix with the public. **A13**

STATEHOUSE

Assembly passes bills to help school kids, workers losing wages

Samantha Marcus *For The Star-Ledger*

The New Jersey Assembly passed a wide-ranging package of bipartisan bills Monday in response to the growing coronavirus outbreak to assist the people, schools, businesses and local governments grappling with the medical and financial impacts of the public health crisis.

More than two dozen measures quickly went through two committees Monday before votes in the full Assembly. The measures target people losing wages as more and more businesses close temporarily and social distancing wipes out commerce, as well as the closed schools attempting to meet new nutritional and educational demands.

"The coronavirus is a concern globally, and in New Jersey we are committed to making sure residents and businesses are prepared and equipped to continue to live and work as we continue through this pandemic," said Assemblywoman Angela McKnight, D-Hudson, chairwoman of the

SEE BILLS, A8

WASHINGTON

Trump: Outbreak may last months, limit gatherings to groups of 10

Siobhán O'Grady, Teo Armus, Rick Noack, Kim Bellware, Katie Mettler and Lateshia Beachum *Washington Post*

Daily life in the United States continues to grind to a halt as authorities scramble to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. Across the world, countries are taking drastic steps, shutting their borders to travelers and enforcing quarantine requirements. Yet local transmission is on the rise in many places, especially Europe and the United States, demonstrating the difficulty of containing the virus.

President Donald Trump recommended that states with evidence of community transmission of the virus close schools, as well as bars, restaurants, gyms and other gathering spots.

Officials warned that the outbreak could go on for months. Trump said it's possible the economy will go into recession.

"It isn't an overreaction," Anthony Fauci, a leading member of the president's

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